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THE Gateway

University of Nebraska at Omaha

INSIDE GUIDE

Comment	Page 2
Features	Page 3
Letters	Page 4
News	Page 5
Sports	Page 7

Welcome Back

Make your voice heard, help reduce future budget cuts. Page 5.

Comment

Nightmares in Nebraska

By BRUCE JOHANSEN
Guest Opinion

I've been having some nasty nightmares lately. They have me imagining that the federal government got *really* serious about balancing the budget, set out to find a champion of frugality to emulate, and discovered the State of Nebraska.

President Reagan was really upset when Congress decided to cut out aid to the "contras" seeking to overthrow Nicaragua's government. He really begrudged trying to make up the \$100 million by trying to learn a lesson from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

"Finance the 'contras' by selling pickle cards!" He asked his aides. "That's a whole hell of a lot of pickle cards!"

He was doubly peeved when someone reminded him that the Sandinistas overthrew the Somoza regime without demanding one thin dime of United States tax money. "Send them to Managua to learn how to run a counter-revolution on \$5 a day? Are you crazy?"

I woke up in a cold sweat with the image of Daniel Ortega in my mind's eye. He was checking bus fares to Harlingen, Texas. I doused my face in cold water, and got back to sleep after some aggressive tossing and turning.

My nightmares weren't over, however.

I found myself in a musty basement of some

federal building in Washington, D.C. A senior official of the Central Intelligence Agency was having a fit.

"This order that senior CIA operatives are to be paid no more than the average Nebraska state legislator has played havoc with our intelligence operations," I was told.

I asked "What's the problem?" with as straight a face as I could muster. "Don't they know how to fix their own bicycles?"

"Problem is," the senior operative said, "That Gorbachev is recruiting them away from us in droves."

"And what about the generals, who've been hit with the same salary limits?" I asked.

"They're all retiring to hustle microchips for the Japanese."

I awoke again, bathed in sweat, my country defenseless.

After another hour of worrying about the future, I slipped off to sleep again, only to find myself in the basement of the White House.

A secretary was looking at me quizzically as I fiddled futilely with the keyboard of my computer.

"I've got to prepare the President's daily news summary," I protested. "If he doesn't have it by 9 a.m., he'll have my head."

See Nightmares
(continued on page 4)



On the cover

Photo by Akitoshi Kizaki

Just when you thought it was safe to venture outdoors in your shorts, nature dumped more than 14 inches of snow on this unsuspecting city. The snow made travel dangerous, closed area businesses and forced UNO to cancel classes Monday. In the photo, parking meters in the visitor lot north of the Student Center were up to their necks in snow before plows cleared the UNO campus Sunday.

Just where do those game show prizes come from?

I have been accused of not being as serious-minded as some other newspaper columnists. For example, I never write about foreign policy or the MX missile or the Star Wars defense plan.

But don't get me wrong. I'm not a guy who doesn't wonder about the hard questions.

And the other day I thought about one of those hard questions.

You know the glamorous prizes that are displayed on TV game shows?

How do they get there?

Really. The camera pans the studio, and all that merchandise is on display, and everyone takes it for granted. But who arranges for that? How does it happen?

Well... if the question is tough enough, you can bet that an investigative reporter will get the answer. And it turns out that there is actually a company that does nothing but provide prizes for game shows. The company is called Game Show Placements, Ltd. It is based in Hollywood, and its president is Bob Robertson, 57.

What the company does is solicit manufacturers who want their products to be offered as prizes on game shows. The manufacturers pay Robertson a fee. They also provide the products themselves. Then Robertson negotiates with the game shows, and the products end up on network television.

"The value of this," Robertson told me, "is that it is much cheaper for a company to have its product given away as a prize on a game show than it would be for the company to buy a commercial on the same game show. When we place a product on a game show, that product gets between 7 and 10 seconds

Bob
Greene



of exposure. For this, the manufacturer pays anywhere between \$900 and \$4,000, plus the cost of the product itself. Compare that to buying a commercial on 'Wheel of Fortune.' Thirty seconds on that show costs \$80,000."

Robertson said that his company represents low-cost prizes — "Rice-A-Roni is the classic" — and higher-ticket items, including appliances, TV sets and furniture. "Each prize is described by the game show's announcer in up to 25 words," he said. "We like the announcers to speak slowly and clearly."

A big part of the job is logistics. "We represent more than 100 products," Robertson said. "Hershey's chocolate, ADT security systems, Burlington draperies, Butler toothbrushes, Greyhound luggage... the list goes on. And we work with 18 game shows. 'Price Is Right,' '\$25,000 Pyramid,' 'Jeopardy,' 'New Hollywood Squares' — all the big ones."

"We have two warehouses filled with prizes. And a great deal of our time is spent trucking a prize to one show, waiting for the prize to be televised, then trucking it back to the warehouse until it is needed for another show. The prizes you see on the air are not the prizes that are actually delivered to the winners. The prizes you see on the air are used over and over again, on all the shows."

The game shows trust his company, Robertson said, because it is reliable. "We can outfit a show practically overnight," he said. "A show will come to us and say that it needs to round out a certain theme package. Say it is giving away a dining-room set. But it doesn't have any dishware. We have the dishware in stock."

If there is a headache in Robertson's business, it is the fact that his company also is responsible for making sure the manufacturers ship the prizes to the people who have won them on the game shows. "A contestant wins a prize," Robertson said. "He goes back to wherever he happens to live. Weeks pass. The prize is not delivered. The contestant calls the game show and asks where the prize is. The game show immediately calls us. And we have to make sure that the manufacturer gets the prize there. We have one person who works full-time doing nothing but that."

Robertson watches most of the game shows that his company works with, and when he sees one of his products on the air it makes him feel almost as if he is seeing a family member. "When I recognize one of our prizes, I get a sense of pride," he said.

He said that there is an ideal setting for a prize. "The best situation for us is when the product is well integrated into the show's format. When the host says, 'If you get this question right, look at what you're going to win.' That puts the audience's full attention on the product."

And does he think that the viewers at home have any idea that a company like his exists?

"I don't think it ever crosses their minds that we're here," he said. "We're invisible, but I'd just as soon have it that way."

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The Gateway

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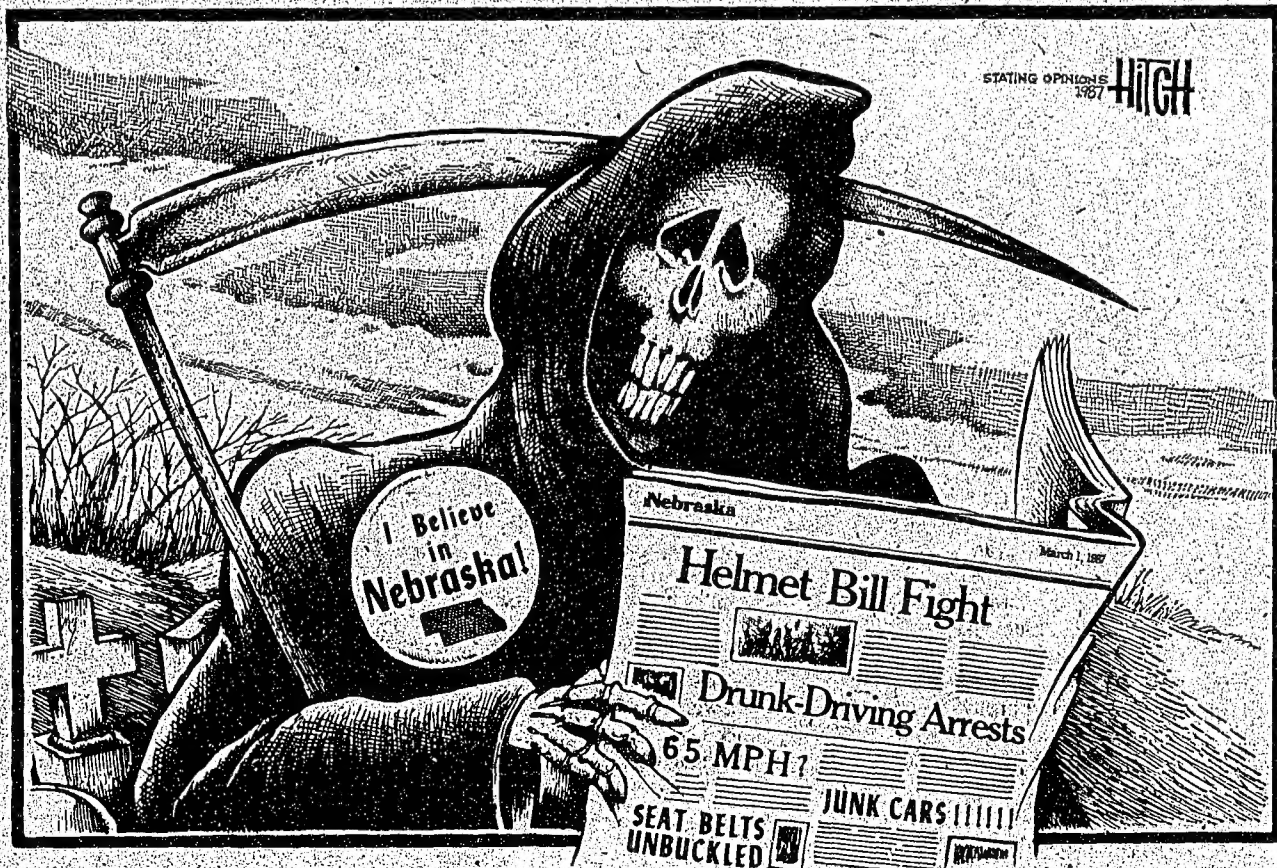
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Features

'Burglar' tries its hand at humor but fails

By ELIZABETH TAPE
Staff Reviewer

I didn't like "Burglar" at all — it was an utterly undistinguished film.

The film opens with the robbery of a wealthy home by an elderly black woman whom we quickly recognize as Whoopi Goldberg in disguise. She sits calmly smoking, admiring various belongings as we watch the owner conclude his job prematurely, and catch her unexpectedly. Needless to say, she escapes unscathed by creating another of her wonderful characters.

We learn that she has a rather checkered past, and although she is now trying to "go straight," it seems that a somewhat unscrupulous ex-cop is blackmailing her into performing additional robberies. In the middle of one she witnesses a murder, becomes the primary suspect and spends the remainder of the film attempting to clear her name by identifying the real culprit.

The film is supposed to be funny in numerous moments when it is not. First, the dialogue in general is witless and tired. Another of the primary reasons is Goldberg's sidekick Carl (Bob Goldthwait), a character with a great quantity of screen time. He maintains a bizarre voice and manner, the causes of which are never made clear. He is presented as a loyal supporter of Goldberg, though he is ostracized from society because of his weird behavior. But if he is intended to represent a caricature of mental or physical illness, it is in very poor taste. Whatever the motivations of the filmmakers to include his role, he simply isn't funny. His overstated, almost grotesque presence generates discomfort and annoyance, particularly because one cannot understand any reasons for this peculiar behavior, nor any reasons for the character's inclusion in the film.

Several overused comic antics constitute only more desperate but unsuccessful efforts at humor. Many of these revolve around

an incompetent police force and their efforts to track down Goldberg. A female police officer injures her leg attempting to knock down Goldberg's door and subsequently limps through the film, which does not provide much humor. Given the film's location in San Francisco, its police-related drama and its lack of originality, it comes as no surprise that included is a prolonged car chase through the city's hills. The chase is predictable long before its occurrence, which features slow motion, travel down one-way streets and multiple car pile-ups — all clichéd techniques.

The film attempts also to poke gentle fun at selected contemporary crazes, such as singles bars and several current companies. Also, references abound to the San Francisco location, but somehow, none of its works very well.

The film doesn't even succeed as an action-adventure narrative. The sequences of suspicions and revelations unfold randomly, and as such the mystery plot fails. But the film succeeds even less as a comedy because of unfunny, predictable pitfalls and many lines clearly intended to bring laughs appearing stale or silly.

I like Goldberg quite a bit, but her character here is not significantly changed from that in the movie "Jumping Jack Flash." This material fails to equal her talent. I have seen the cable television version of her one-woman Broadway show where her characterizations shine; they are cleverly written and skillfully executed. In fact, she creates a character in "Burglar" who I suspect was borrowed from that production. If the content of this film could have reached that of her show, it would have showcased her abilities far better.

One aspect of the film deserves positive mention: how pleasurable it is to see a woman defend herself successfully and remain self-sufficient and capable in her own right, not needing

to await rescue by a man. On the other hand, the film also offers women in two other professional roles (a police officer and a dentist). But in both of these instances, the characters do not emerge unscathed; one is despicable and the other displays oafish behavior.

I could not think of much to say about this film, except that it wasted talents and money, and left me completely cold. In fact, when I sat down to write this review, the film had left few impressions.

Dedicated Goldberg fans might not detest "Burglar," though they will be disappointed that her role here lacks any significant alteration from her previous movie character. But for non-Whoopi Goldberg fans, there is nothing redeeming about "Burglar."

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Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Inc.

Raye Birk, Whoopi Goldberg and Scott Lincoln star in the New Warner Bros. comedy "Burglar."

Band 'on good terms with absurdity'

By TIM RILEY
College Press Service

Today's music scene is full of big shots, comebacks and wannabes, with very few groups covering the middle ground that normally produces talent, purpose and genuine pleasure. Between giants like Bruce Springsteen and New Age bromides like Bruce Hornsby, very little worthwhile music seems to be taking shape. And when was the last time Michael Jackson cracked a joke? From California comes hope:

Camper Van Beethoven is a garage band from Santa Cruz whose most famous song, "Take The Skinheads Bowling," makes as much sense as its name. Adding a violin to the basic rock and roll lineup happily confuses the group's musical identity. It's on good terms with absurdity, and its highest aesthetic value is parody.

"We are not Camper Van Beethoven," guitarist and founder Dave Lowery said as the musicians took the stage recently in Boston. "We are a tribute to Camper Van Beethoven."

Their set sounded much like their records: eclectic, confusing and somewhat sprawling. They looked out of place, the kind of musicians who take the stage almost by accident. Bassist Victor Krummenacher looked drolly intent. Singer David Lowery was bemused and preoccupied. Lead guitarist Greg Lisher came on solemn and concentrated, while violinist Jonathan Segal was spunky and irreverent. Only drummer Crispy Derson appeared focused.

At its worst, the band approximated the uncentered fog of a

Grateful Dead jam. At its best, it traveled the musical map with astonishing ease and control. What was most gripping the night of the Boston concert was the way the musicians made everything sound of a piece, part of a bigger kaleidoscope of styles. Their gimmick was humor, and levity is just what today's self-aggrandizing pop climate needs.

You'll find Camper Van Beethoven's albums in the independent bin on the Rough Trade label.

The group recorded all three of its albums last year, and won rave critical notices in "Spin," the "Village Voice" and even "Billboard." "Existential indecision lives," wrote Robert Christgau.

And there's plenty of it. Each record bulges with material, up to 17 tracks per lp.

But it was the 1985 single, "Take The Skinheads Bowling," that put them on alternative radio's hit parade. "Skinheads" doesn't chortle at the expense of haircut styles. It's a shaggy dog satire about leisure time, impenetrable dreams and what-me-worry quandaries that sum up the group's delirious good humor.

When "Skinheads" anchored most college radio playlists, nobody could resist the smartly minimalist setting of lyrics like "everybody's going home for lunch these days." Whether the song condoned bowling with Skinheads or using their heads as balls, it didn't make enough sense to take seriously, and the music seemed to turn the dry humor belly up.

See Band
(Continued on page 6)

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Letters

The last word

'Readers miss the point'

To the editor:

I write to express my support for the Publication Board's stand against censorship, and my sympathy for Bob Atherton.

Many writers and commentators have met Mr. Atherton's fate — having a satirical piece read literally. Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn," perhaps one of the strongest anti-racist statements of the 19th Century, has been banned from classrooms and libraries as racist. Likewise, Swift's biting indictment of the British oppression of the Irish, an essay entitled "A Modest Proposal," is often read by students as an inhumane attack on the Irish. Why? Because Swift "proposes" that Irish children be butchered as a meat supply, an idea he recommends as consistent with national policy, since he says, that the landlords "have already devoured the parents." Despite the often repeated warning to be aware of the satiric nature of the piece, teachers of composition often get passionate papers refuting "that heartless Mr. Swift."

Quite the opposite of what one person's response to the "Big Max" strip would suggest, the problem with satirical pieces is not that they "leave nothing to the imagination," but that they assume that readers will use their imaginations. As a teacher of creative writing, what I find even more distressing than the lack of regard for freedom of expression on the part of many readers is the lack of imagination in what is purported to be an intellectual community.

Art, science, social science, the humanities — every human endeavor requires imagination. It is the sign of a mature intellect. And we can't blame TV for its demise; TV gave us "All in the Family," a series which was only funny if we realized that we weren't supposed to identify with Archie Bunker's warped world view.

I'm neither suggesting that this comic strip is of the same literary quality as the examples I've given above, nor that people with righteous indignation should "learn how to take a joke." But it's clearly advantageous to understand at whose expense the joke is being made. In this case, it was clearly Mr. Atherton's intent to make fun of sexist men. As long as "ripping their faces apart" (as one person suggested) is not a legal alternative, derision is the moralist's most powerful weapon. Irony is the tool with which one aims that weapon. Two types of irony are present in the strip under discussion: *verbal irony*, wherein one says one thing and obviously means quite another, and (more directly) *dramatic irony*, wherein a character in a story believes one thing to be true while the audience is given information to show that quite the opposite is true. Irony is also present in the *reductio ad absurdum* argument, which, in some ways, Atherton's strip represents.

Perhaps it is our concern with "image" (another concern expressed in responses to the cartoon) which blinds us. I am glad that the Publications Board, the Gateway staff and "that heartless Mr. Atherton" can distinguish between image (which is just a new term for what my grandmother used to call "appearances") and reality. While people know that things similar to what Atherton portrayed actually happen, some people seem to want either a conspiracy of silence about it, or to direct the way others express their disapproval into channels which are so innocuous that all vigor is lost. To those who want to keep up appearances at the expense of the basic intellectual and ethical values a university is required to uphold, I can only suggest they redirect their energies. Perhaps when educational institutions begin truly educating students, there will be fewer sexist jerks on campus and fewer people who will be capable of so utterly and dismally missing the point.

Art Homer,
Writer's Workshop chairman
and assistant professor

'Thanks for the support'

To the editor:

On behalf of the UNO team which participated in the 1987 National Intercollegiate Mock Trial Tournament at Drake University recently, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the UNO Student Government which partially funded our trip to Des Moines. Due to their support, our lodging and travel were covered, leaving only our meals to be paid for out of pocket.

This year the team won the third-place trophy and more important, the Most Professional Team Award, a much larger trophy. The latter was awarded on the basis of best knowledge of legal procedure, best courtroom demeanor and most ethical conduct.

This was the second time that UNO entered a team and the field was larger — (50 versus 33 teams last year) — and the judging was more rigorous. Whereas last year two-thirds of the judges were graduating law students, this year the judges were real state court judges, practicing attorneys, law school professors and only a few students.

We are also grateful to the Nebraska Epsilon chapter of Pi Gamma Mu and their faculty advisor, Dr. Orville Menard, for sponsoring us and to Associate Dean Gordon Hansen and Vice Chancellor Richard Hoover for their encouragement.

To the team members — Vicki Boone, Allison Brown-Corson, Crystal Coleman, Charles Dragon, William Head, Brad Kasiewicz, Susan Laughlin and John Majorek — let me express publicly how proud I am of your achievement. Your hard work, complete dedication, teamwork and talent were remarkable.

Finally, let me express the team's gratitude to Michael Goodwillie, our attorney coach, who labored so diligently to prepare our team so well. This was also Michael's second year as attorney coach and he deserves a great deal of credit for the team's success. Our thanks also to Craig Ongley of Schmid, Ford & Frederick who judged our dress rehearsal, and Tim Fitzgerald, University Relations, who publicized our trip on "UNO Scene" with Professor Paul Borge.

Kent Kirwan,
political science professor
and mock trial team coach

'Thanks to SABC'

To the editor:

So many times at this university I see the work of volunteers go unnoticed. It is my intention in this letter, therefore, to inform you of the excellent service done for the University of Nebraska at Omaha by its Student Activities Budget Commission (SABC) members.

The members were as follows: the student members, Mike Drelicharz, Tim Kerrigan, John Majorek, Cheryl Carter, and Tracy Jones; and faculty members, David Branco, Duane Aschenbrenner, and Marshall Prisbell.

Also the thanks would not be complete without recognition of the commission's non-voting members, Joel Zarr, Ron Clark, and the recording secretary Tim Klein. They taught me an important lesson, one can talk very little, but still offer large amounts of advice and information.

In my three years in Student Government I have never seen any group of people who took their jobs so seriously and at the same time do such an excellent job with the allocation of student fees.

Greg Gunderson,
SABC chairman

Letter policy

The Gateway welcomes input from its readers. Letters to the editor must be signed, but those with noms de plume may be accepted. All letters should include appropriate identification, address and telephone number. (Address and telephone number will not be published.) Letters critical of individuals must be signed by using the first and last name, or initials and last name. Preference is given to typed letters. All correspondence is subject to editing and available space.

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Application forms are available in the Gateway office, Annex 26, and completed applications must be returned to Rosalie Meiches at the Gateway by 5 p.m., April 2, 1987.

All applicants will be interviewed at a meeting of the UNO Student Publications Committee

Nightmares . . .

Nightmares

(continued from page 2)

"Haven't you heard?" the secretary asked me. "We're out of money for computer usage. You'll get your next byte in about six months."

"Well, then," I said. "I'll type it and make copies."

The secretary gave me a look that silently asked what planet I had been on. "Our photocopying budget ran out a month ago."

"I've got to get out of town," I said.

"Well," the secretary said, "Our Nebraska-line budget allows you enough for a bus ticket to Bethesda and one Big Mac, without fries. You'll have to hitchhike back."

"I'll take it," I said.

I never got on that bus. My last nightmare ended as a tornado sucked my up and dumped me some time later at 60th and Dodge, where I woke looking Governor Kay Orr straight in the eye. She thanked me for having the good sense to take a free ride home.

Johansen is an associate professor of communication.

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Letter-writing campaign aims at reducing budget cuts

By **CHERY LORRAINE**
Copy Editor

UNO Student Government is initiating a letter writing campaign this week aimed at convincing state lawmakers to diminish proposed cuts to the university's 1987-88 budget.

"State legislators receive less than 100 letters a year," states an instructional letter written by Student Senator Paul Hays, which is included in packets of campaign materials. "If a legislator is in Lincoln and receives 15 letters on the same subject, he would seriously reconsider his position on the subject," the letter states.

Letters should be handwritten by individual students and faculty members, and they should address specific concerns about UNO areas which may lose money, said Joe Kerrigan, Student Government chief administrative officer.

At the Feb. 26 Student Senate meeting, UNO Chancellor Del Weber told the assembly that their efforts to halt cuts to this year's budget would not be effective because they've already been approved.

"However, it may do a world of good to write them about the budget they're working on now to help prevent future cuts," Weber said. "They do listen to students."

"We want all the letters in handwriting because it (the campaign) will have a greater impact that way," Kerrigan said. "We don't want people to crank out sixty letters on a word processor."

"It should be more of a personal thing," said Student Senator B. J. Tobin. "You should write a letter about how you're personally affected."

An information table to distribute information packets is to be set up in the Student Center today and tomorrow. Packets include maps of Nebraska and Omaha with voting districts outlined, as well as complete lists of state senators and regents with their addresses.

Other information distribution sites will be maintained at the Medical Center and in the Peter Kiewit Conference Center, where many classes in the College of Continuing Studies are held.

Omaha area senators and their districts:
Emil Beyer, Jr. Gretna, 3

Gary Hannibal Omaha, 4
Bernice Labedz Omaha, 5
Brad Ashford Omaha, 6
Timothy Hall Omaha, 7
Yard Johnson Omaha, 8
Marge Higgins Omaha, 9
Carol McBride Pirsch Omaha, 10
Ernie Chambers Omaha, 11

Chris Abboud Omaha, 13
Dan Lynch Omaha, 18
Ron Withem Papillion, 14
Glenn Goodrich Omaha, 31
D. Paul Hartnett Bellevue, 45
All letters should be addressed to the individual senator, including his district number, and sent to the State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509.

Employers visit UNO

Need a job? Visit the Student Center Ballroom today.

The ninth annual UNO employment festival is being held today in the ballroom from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The free festival is designed to help UNO students find jobs with local employers. Rick Carlson, supervisor of Student Part-Time Employment Services, said. More than 40 employers ranging from small businesses to corporate level employers are expected to participate.

About 900 UNO students are expected to attend in search of the full- and part-time positions and internships offered by companies involved, said Carlson.

Past participants include First Data Resources Inc.; Northwestern Mutual Life; the Omaha Parks and Recreation Department; Kutak, Rock and Campbell; Union Pacific; and United Parcel Service.

Over 80 percent of UNO's students work while attending college.

Studies, sightseeing combined in Mexico program

By **BECKY NEWKIRK**
Contributing Writer

Many people would jump at a chance to spend a month in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and weekends in Mexico City and Acapulco.

According to Elvira Garcia, UNO Spanish instructor, about 20 Spanish language students will be spending a month like that this summer. They will be participating in the department's language immersion program.

The intensive language program runs four weeks and costs about \$1,140. It can be taken for either three or six credit hours.

Students will leave June 13, and return July 12. They will fly from Omaha to Mexico City, then travel by bus to Cuernavaca. Once students arrive in Cuernavaca, they will be introduced to their assigned Mexican host families, whom they will live with during the month, Garcia said.

"Students are matched with a family of their liking. They can choose smoking or non-smoking, children or no-children — things like that," Garcia said. "Since the students will spend the whole four weeks living at these houses, it's important that they are comfortable," Garcia said.

The classes, held at The Center for Bilingual Multicultural Studies in Cuernavaca, are very structured, Garcia said.

"There is language school from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Then students go to their host homes for lunch, the main meal of the day for Mexicans. The lunches in Mexico are really gourmet. They're not tacos and enchiladas like we think of," Garcia said.

Students return to school from 5 to 7 p.m. for additional lectures from native Mexicans. In the evening, participants can go home for a light dinner and television or go into downtown Cuernavaca.

Weekends are basically free time, and students may schedule trips to other Mexican cities, Garcia said. One popular weekend excursion is a 3-day trip to Acapulco. The trip includes transportation and hotel rooms for three days for just \$70, she said.

Heidi Jung, a secondary teacher in the Omaha Public School system, participated last year.

"The best thing that happens to you is that your (language) fluency increases so much. When you are immersed in a culture, it becomes much more real to you," Jung said. "The experience reminded me that you can't really have a feeling for a language without living in that

country," Jung said.

"We've had tremendous success with this program," Garcia said. "We test the students before we go in their Spanish proficiency, then again when they come back. The results are always at least one level higher. It's like three years progress in one month," she said.

The program is not just limited to students, Garcia said. Several teachers, such as Jung, come from elementary and secondary schools.

"After years of teaching the basics — 'Hello,' 'How are you?' 'What time is it?' — they want their skills sharpened," Garcia said.

In the past the Center has been attended not only by UNO students and faculty, but by Canadian ambassadors, Japanese businessmen and airline employees.

Jung explained that participants were so diverse because of the need for foreign language

knowledge in all areas of life.

"Experiencing other cultures is 100 percent necessary in most every field," Jung said. "For example, if you're going to be a journalist, that knowledge of Latin American language and culture is going to allow you to report the events more accurately," she said.

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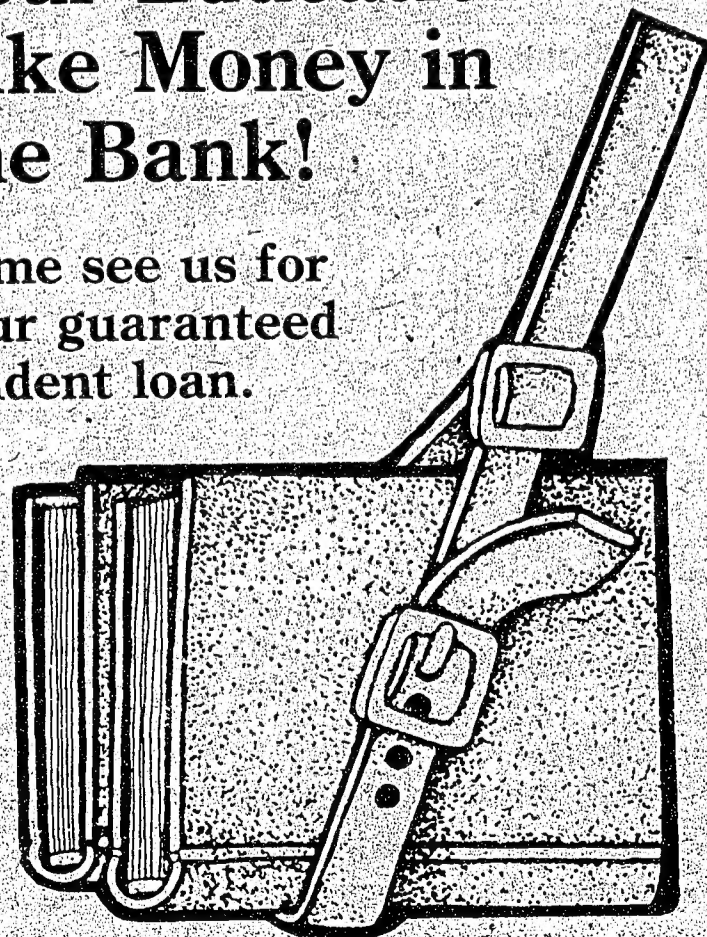
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Band 'travels musical map with astonishing ease'

Band
(Continued from page 3)

Although they're nuts about bad jokes, the band members' music adds up to more than a string of wisecracks. They play country, folk, reggae, psychedelic mood pieces and head-bashing guitar jams. They parody each one. And with each switching of musical gears, they should like a different band.

About half the songs are instrumentals. As Segal put it, "lyrics are hard to write, and we believe in music for music's sake." So the music can sound as campy as a Hee Haw hayride or as unconsciously diffuse as the most out-of-touch Sonic Youth (New York City's favorite art-rockers) composition.

At first listening, some of the songs sound half-hearted. But as an ensemble, Camper Van Beethoven displays a collective ear for contrasting textures and nearly all of rock's familiar patterns, including some — like Ska and Tex-Mex — that have yet to break through to the mainstream. To the band, rock music is like a television. It's content to sit and change channels all night.

Attitudinally, Camper Van Beethoven resembles the Mekons, the British punk band that turned country-western. Both groups

look at life sardonically, refuse to back away from falsities and rely on music as an antidote to perplexity. There's enough comfort in playing together to warrant living, they seem to tell us.

But where the Mekons act out a drunken futility, Camper Van Beethoven looks despair in the face and cracks up.

Most of the time, the song titles — "Cowboys from Hollywood," "Joe Stalin's Cadillac," "The History of Utah," "Interstellar Overdrive" — only hint at the yuks to come. "Hoe Yourself Down" turns out to be a nightmarish square dance where band members masquerade as hillbilly outlaws. "Where the Hell is Bill?" turns into a selfless void, an inquisition in a house of mirrors.

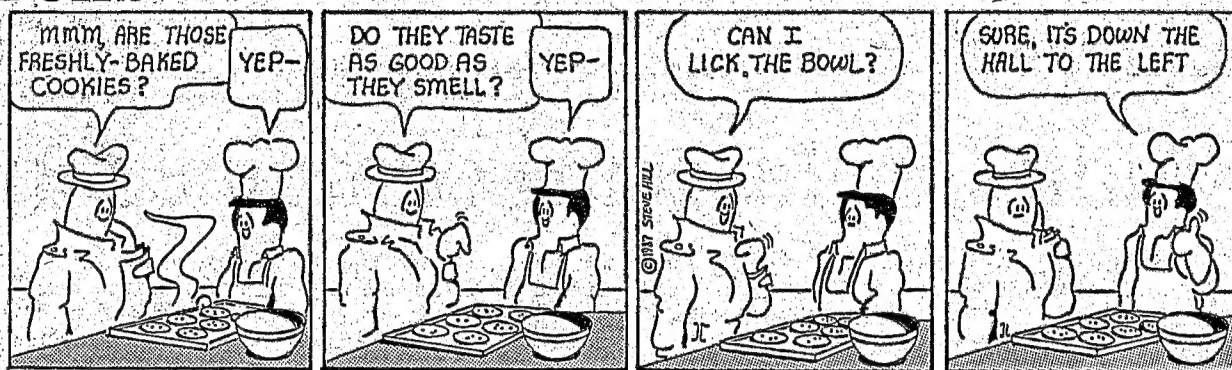
There's intelligence in these yarns. And the records work because they know every verse is a dead end; every guitar solo a hit-and-run accident. Onstage, for instance, the band members even sing the backward-tape sections of their songs.

Great relief sets in when you realize Camper Van Beethoven's

music not only doesn't make sense, but that it's not supposed to. So you feel a little more comfortable in this fractured world, more at ease with befuddling reality. Ultimately, songs as smart as "Where the Hell is Bill?" and "The Ambiguity Song" only begin as jokes. Where they end is anybody's guess.

If you are planning to get married in April, May, June, or July please contact Tim at The Gateway for an interview. 554-2470

BUNS



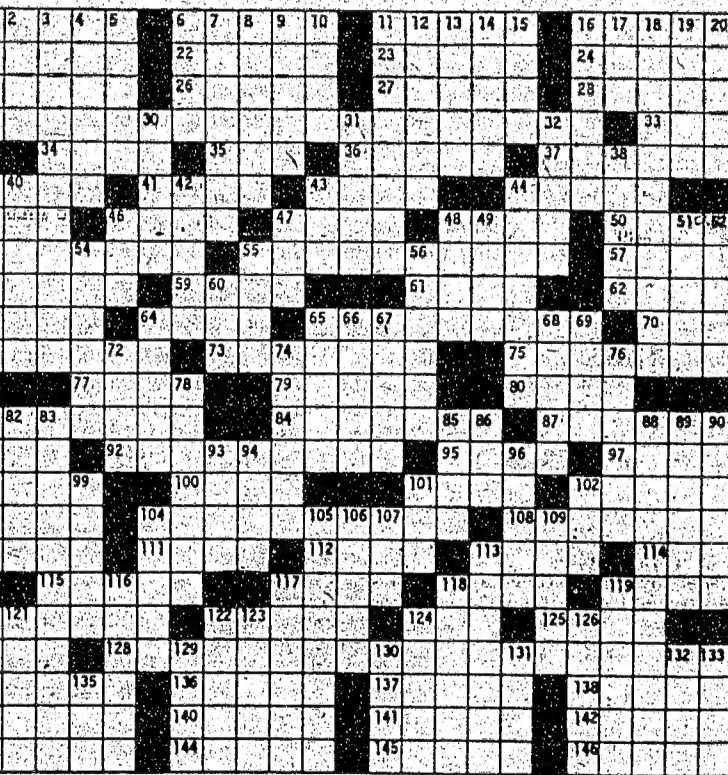
OBSERVER Crossword

Edited by Charles Preston

Women's Roles

ACROSS

- 1 Fetlocks
- 6 Startle
- 11 Voice
- 16 Egyptian god
- 21 Prepare
- 22 Archangel
- 23 Acid compound
- 24 Down East
- 25 Swedish lake
- 26 Polite title
- 27 Gown style
- 28 Green island
- 29 Secretary of a kind
- 33 Obstinate; colloq.
- 34 Commend
- 35 N.Y.C. subway
- 36 Of muzzle marks
- 37 Salvage; Law
- 39 Cycles
- 41 — of Liberty
- 43 Hail
- 44 Famous for 1692 trials
- 45 Ump, for short
- 46 — party
- 47 During
- 48 Korean coin
- 50 Permits
- 53 Pragmatist
- 55 Witches
- 57 Smooth
- 58 To the place; l.
- 59 Prince
- 61 Gnostic power
- 62 Sup
- 63 Soft mineral
- 64 Banjo part
- 65 "Red Stockings" and other "Libs"
- 70 Federal agcy
- 71 Promise
- 73 Celibate order
- 75 Tennis term
- 77 Easy victim
- 79 Father; prefix
- 80 African tree
- 81 Imbroglio
- 84 Lake near Naples
- 87 Jump prices again
- 91 Six-foot bird
- 92 Emulate Elizabeth Blackwell
- 95 Fondles
- 97 Likeness; abbr.
- 98 Beef; Sp.
- 100 Donut shapes
- 101 Major —
- 102 Girl's name
- 103 Years of a kind; abbr.
- 104 Place of some women
- 108 Male gesture
- 110 Fewer
- 111 God of love
- 112 Before; poetic
- 113 Wine cellar
- 114 Summer in Paris
- 115 Pools
- 117 Highlander
- 118 Machete
- 119 Central Iowa city
- 120 — age
- 122 Lose one's —
- 124 Candidate, for short
- 125 Rajah's wife
- 127 Sweep scene
- 128 Wife, of a kind
- 134 Still
- 136 Barbarians
- 137 Hide-away
- 138 Muddle
- 139 Conform



- 140 Starting point
- 141 About
- 142 Crystal compound
- 143 Polite denial
- 144 Editor's marks
- 145 Breeders
- 146 Hockey rink
- 17 Naval rank; abbr.
- 18 Feminist idea of demeaning symbol
- 19 Food flavor
- 20 Aeries
- 30 Assays
- 31 Win of a kind
- 32 Antelope
- 38 Ice cold
- 39 Misprints
- 40 Girls' names
- 42 Stereotype
- 43 Forenoons; abbr.
- 44 Okies
- 46 Thus
- 47 Broadcast
- 48 Guevara, et al.
- 49 Derisive cry
- 51 Mixer
- 52 — lead
- 54 Cell, in Britain
- 55 Broods
- 56 Dried fruit
- 60 Moon plain
- 64 Calais woman
- 65 Rend
- 66 Record
- 67 — papier
- 68 German river and region
- 69 Snicker — knight
- 72 Apron
- 74 Equine disease
- 76 — Indonesia
- 78 Trades
- 81 Old Scratch
- 82 Public face
- 83 Individualists
- 85 Soon after
- 86 Girls' school; abbr.
- 88 Place of some men
- 89 Defense art
- 90 Transports
- 93 Square in London
- 94 Goddess of discord
- 96 All
- 99 Hindu state
- 101 Prosecutors; abbr.
- 102 Mock
- 104 Seat
- 105 Fiancées
- 106 Razorback
- 107 — Torme
- 109 Off-white
- 113 Lotion
- 116 German knight
- 117 Borer
- 118 Fiancé
- 119 — of sanctity
- 120 Buzzy
- 121 Dance
- 122 Shall not; contr.
- 123 Lower —
- 124 City near Bombay
- 126 Mother of Lavinia
- 129 Ida
- 130 — up
- 131 New York's heroes
- 132 Style
- 133 Soviet river into Arctic
- 135 King; Sp.

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Sports

Mav wrestlers 'hungry' for title after taste of success

By TERRY O'CONNOR
Sports Editor

The UNO Maverick wrestlers, far from being content with the No. 5 ranking they achieved in Division II for the 1986-87 season, have a mission in mind.

"We've never been ranked No. 1," UNO Coach Mike Denney said. "But next year we are loaded. Our guys will probably be ranked No. 1 in preseason."

With good reason. The Mavs return all 10 of their starters, including All-Americans R.J. Nebe, Brad Hildebrandt, Jeff Randall, Dave Pippin and Clark Schnepel.

"I was pleased with this year," Denney said. "But we're really pointing towards next year. Our guys are hungry."

The Mavs, whose highest finish ever came in 1984-85 when they were ranked No. 2 in Division II, have team and individual goals they have yet to accomplish, said Denney.

"Guys like Pippin and Schnepel got a feel for winning this year," Denney said. "Next year they'll set higher goals for themselves at the start of the season."

"Brad Hildebrandt was hurt and couldn't compete like he wanted to at the end of the year and he'll have something to prove next year."

"R.J. Nebe and Jeff Randall almost got it done this year by going to the Division I nationals but I'm sure they'd like to improve on how they did down there," Denney said.

Randall, unseeded at 167 pounds, led Joe Silvestro of North Carolina 4-2 in the second period before being pinned at 5:23. Randall finished the year at 34-6.

Nebe received the eighth seed at 177 pounds but was pushed to overtime in his first two matches by unseeded wrestlers. Joe Flores of Cal State-Fullerton fell 7-3 in the first round and Nebe edged Morgan State's Paul Green to advance to the quarterfinals, one win away from his goal of being a Division I All-American.

But the toll of wrestling 50 matches in a season may have been too much of a strain on Nebe, Denney said. "He's an iron man," Denney said. "But he might have worn himself down. Fifty matches is too many. Thirty-five to 40 is ideal. We may have to talk to him about that next season."

Top seed and undefeated Darryl Pope, 41-0, dominated Nebe in their quarterfinal match to win 15-0. The Cal State-Bakersfield senior also had downed Nebe 9-3 in the Division II championship.

"We were still where we wanted to be," Denney said. "We



Photo by Akitoshi Kizaki

UNO wrestler R.J. Nebe, under the right arm of Buena Vista's Kevin Besch, posted the second highest win total in a season with a 45-5 record. Nebe was one victory short of becoming a Division I All-American.

were within one point of getting R.J. that All-American status. Ed Gunther of Arizona State just had a little too much for R.J. in the wrestlebacks."

What was a great season for any wrestler turned, in the last two matches, into a bitter disappointment for Nebe.

"He wanted it real bad," Denney said. "But Pope was on a roll and he dominated everybody. R.J. was wrestling pretty well though. This will give him something to shoot for next year."

Nebe finished the season with a 45-5 mark that included a UNO school-record streak of 26 matches in a row without a

loss. Nebe became the sixth Mav wrestler to compete in at least 50 matches in a season. His winning percentage of 90 percent placed him in a three-way tie for second place behind all-time single-season winning percentage leader Ryan Kaufman, who won 92 percent of his matches in 1980-81.

Nebe's 45 wins placed him second on the UNO single-season win list behind Mark Manning, who went 47-7 in 1984-85.

Nebe is a cinch to become the Mavs' all-time career win leader barring injury. He finished the year second with a career mark of 112-26-2, just nine wins behind Manning's 121.

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Bad timing haunts Lady Mavs during spring 'break'

By JUDY NOVAK
Staff Reporter

Spring break was anything but a vacation as the UNO Lady Mavs ran into stiff softball competition in sunny California and then had to battle snowdrifts on their way home.

Top-ranked Cal State-Northridge swept two games from UNO before the lady Mavs split a doubleheader with Cal State-Dominguez Hills.

UNO assistant coach, Jackie Jerkovich said the lady Mavs' pitching looks good but their hitting needs to improve for them to win more games.

Against Dominguez Hills, UNO freshman Beth Wedge (pronounced weighty) tossed a two-hit shutout as UNO won the second game 4-0. Sheila Cech was the losing pitcher in UNO's 2-1 loss in the opener.

UNO sophomore leftfielder Sharon Krebs had two RBIs in the second game and sophomore third baseman Lisa Koziol went 2 for 3 with one RBI. Senior second baseman Staci Cook also went 2 for 3.

The next day the lady Mavs committed three errors in the bottom of the seventh inning of each game of a double-header to lose 4-3 and 1-0 to California Riverside.

Wedge threw a no-hitter through six innings of the second game, but she committed two errors in the seventh and Riverside pulled out the win. Cook again paced the hitters with two doubles and an RBI in the opener.

In the final games of their California swing, against Chapman



Beth Wedge.

College, the Lady Mavs were again their own worst enemy. Cech won her third game of UNO's 5-9 season with a six-hitter in the Lady mavs' 3-1 triumph in the first game. But Wedge was victimized by four errors in the second-game loss, three coming as Chapman scored four runs in the fourth inning on the way to a 4-1 win.

The Lady Mavs' tough luck extended to their flight home as they were stranded in the Denver airport for two nights, where they had to sleep on the floor or on chairs.

"We're just ready to be home," Jerkovich said from an airport pay phone.

The Lady Mavs, who finished third in the North Central Conference last year with an overall record of 35-19, got off to a rocky start in 1987 as they were swept by Creighton in a season-opening double-header.

Next, in a trip to South Dakota, UNO served notice they will be a force in the NCC as they swept three games from league opponents. UNO trounced North Dakota 8-1, nipped North Dakota State 1-0, and belted St. Cloud State 6-1. Minnesota-Duluth, a non-conference rival, brought the winning streak to an end with a 4-1 win in the last game of the trip.

UNO senior first baseman Deb Gildersleeve had the game-winning RBI against NDSU as she singled in freshman Kari Swanson in the bottom of the eighth. Swanson had doubled with two out. Swanson also knocked in three runs the next day to help give UNO the split.

The Lady Mavs' next game is scheduled April 3, against Morningside.

"We need to start clicking now," Jerkovich said. "But we'll worry about that when we get home."

1987 LADY MAV SCHEDULE

Feb. 28	Creighton*	1:00
March 19-20	at Dakota Dome Tournament	TBA
March 23	at Cal State Northridge*	1:30
March 24	at Cal State Dominguez Hills*	1:30
March 25	at UC Riverside*	1:30
March 26	at Chapman College*	5:00
April 3	Morningside College	4:00
April 4	Concordia College*	11:30
	Mt. Mercy College*	5:30
April 7	at Buena Vista*	3:00
April 8	at Northwest Missouri & vs. Northeast Missouri	4:30
April 10-12	at University of Northern Iowa Tournament	TBA
April 14	South Dakota*	4:30
April 16	Northwest Missouri*	4:00
April 21	South Dakota State*	4:00
April 22	at Augustana*	4:00
April 24-25	at Northwestern Tournament	TBA
April 28	College of St. Mary*	6:00
May 1-2	at North Central Conference Tournament	TBA
May 8-9	Regionals	TBA
May 15-16	NCAA Division II National Tournament	TBA

Home games are played at Claussen-Westgate Field, 82nd and "D" Streets.

* Doubleheaders

Godwin returns to UNO baseball

By ERIC OLSON
Staff Reporter

After spending a season at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Bruce Godwin is back as UNO's regular left fielder.

Godwin, a junior, played at UNO two years ago as a freshman. He transferred to Iowa Western for his sophomore season when budget cuts threatened to eliminate the Maverick baseball program. But Godwin needed to attend another school after he graduated from the two-year junior college with an associate's degree in arts and sciences.

"I liked UNO when I was there as a freshman," Godwin said, "so I decided I might as well come back."

Godwin played under former UNO assistant Bob Nowaczyk at Iowa Western. Nowaczyk was at UNO through Godwin's freshman season.

"Coach Gates and he really got along well," Godwin said, "but Coach Gates didn't want Coach Nowaczyk stealing his players. So I wasn't really pressured to go to Iowa Western by Coach Nowaczyk. It was my own decision."

While there, Godwin hit .325 for a team that went 26-26 and qualified for the regional playoffs. This season he's hitting about .250 with one home run, that coming last Thursday in a 10-9 loss to Stephen F. Austin, a Division I school.

Gates, UNO's head coach, said he's glad Godwin is back.

"He played real well for us as a freshman," Gates said, "and I know he'll keep playing well for us now that he's back. I can understand why he left. At the time he wasn't convinced we were going to play, so I couldn't be upset with the kids who wanted to leave UNO."

UNO baseball was reinstated in 1986 thanks to a three-year deal with College World Series, Inc. That organization is in the second year of giving the Mavs \$30,000 a season to maintain the baseball program.

Playing at different schools was a benefit, Godwin said. "The two coaches had different styles," he said. "Coach Gates was the kind of guy who lets you play and just asks that you do the best you can and hope to get better. Nowaczyk would push you to the point where you'd want to blow up. I guess that makes you a better player."

The main difference between junior college and Division II baseball is pitching, Godwin said.

"At Iowa Western we played a lot of good teams and got to face a lot of good pitchers," he said. "You probably see better pitching in juno ball because a lot of the pitchers transfer to Division I schools."

Was Godwin good enough to play Division II?

"I thought I was," he said, "but I'm happy coming back to UNO. I like it here."

UNotes

The UNO Lady Mavs' basketball team claimed three of the 12 spots on the North Central Conference All-Academic team.

Laura J. Anderson, who earlier was named the NCC's most valuable player and later was named to the Kodak All-America team, earned a spot with a 3.35 grade point average in business and finance.

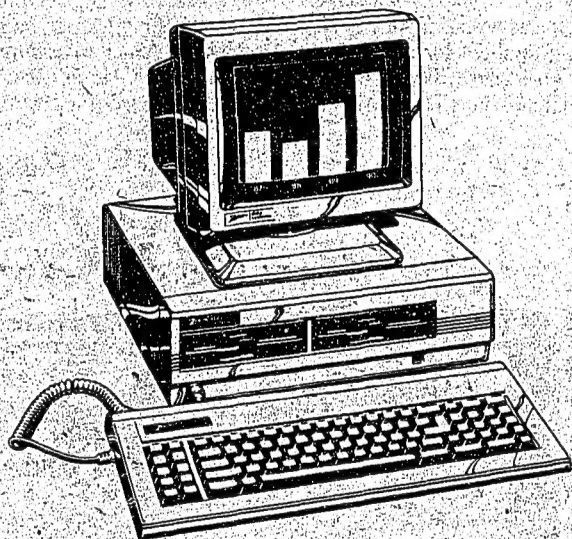
Laura J., a junior was joined on the team by seniors Jackie Scholtén, 3.37 in broadcasting, and Laura Paige Anderson, 3.7 in secondary education.

The UNO men's baseball team returned from Nacogdoches, Texas, with six straight losses to Division I Stephen F. Austin University. In sequence the Mavs lost 19-0, 14-4, 10-0, 7-0, 10-9 and 12-5. "They beat the heck out of us," UNO Coach Bob Gates said. "But we're not disheartened, we're anxious to get going in the conference." Austin first baseman Lionel Adams feasted on the Mavs' pitching for six home runs and 22 RBIs in the series.

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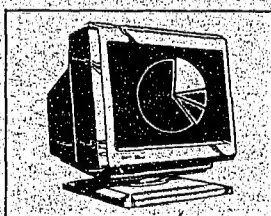
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